

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated December 8, 2008, Claims 1-14 and 17-21 have been rejected. Claims 15 and 16 have been objected to.

Specifically, Claims 1-2, 10-11 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Barbara-Guillem (US 2003/0040104). Claims 3, 4, 6-9 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Barbara-Guillem in view of Claus (CA 2303243). Claims 5, 12 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Barbara-Guillem in view of Lerch (WO 97/19754). Claims 13, 14, 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Barbara-Guillem in view of Pfaller (US 6329195).

Claims 15 and 16 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without conceding to the propriety of any of the substantive rejections of record and solely in an effort to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-14 and 17-21, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications and/or divisional applications directed to the cancelled subject matter. Applicants have also amended Claims 15 and 16 to included the limitations of the base Claim 10. There are no other intervening claims. Support for the amendment to Claims 15 and 16 is found explicitly in cancelled Claim 10. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments serve to simplify issues and place the Claims in condition for immediate allowance. To wit, the Examiner has acknowledged the allowability of Claims 15 and 16, as currently amended.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the outstanding rejections have been overcome and the outstanding objections rendered moot by the amendments to the Claims. If the Examiner believes that any outstanding issues remain, she is urged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter I. Bernstein', with a stylized, cursive script.

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